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**THE DWARF TRIBE OF THE UPPER AMAZON**

*Editor of The American Anthropologist :*

Since sending you the communication on the above subject, printed in the September number of the *Anthropologist*, I have found that the letter of Mr Sullivan referred to in *L'Anthropologie* appeared in the *Verhandlungen* of the Berlin Anthropological Society for October 17, 1896. It was sent by Mr R. G. Haliburton. It states that these dwarfs are seen "in different parts of Surinam." Some have bushy hair. Their color is a "brilliant reddish yellow." They go by the name of Makalak, Malaka, or Malakrak.

From this description, which is far from definite, I believe these small persons were a hybrid group of Arawacks, who, according to Im Thurn, are the shortest Indians of that region,<sup>1</sup> and negroes. That they came from the upper Orinoco lacks confirmation.

D. G. BRINTON.

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The *Dermatologische Zeitschrift* notes the estimate of Dr. Ashmead, of New York, that the number of lepers in Japan is much greater than is shown by the statistics given by the government. The official figures recently published show 23,647 lepers in a population of forty millions. The oldest colony of lepers, in Nara, near Kioto, is mentioned by Katakara Genshiu in his work on syphilis and leprosy. It probably goes back to the time of the Empress Gemeiyo (718-740 A. D.), who is said to have undertaken as a special penance the washing of one thousand lepers with her own royal hands.

The favorable effect of isolation may be seen from the fact that among the Ainos, who live on an island by themselves, no leprosy has been observed during twenty centuries. The Japanese law forbids marriage into a family in which leprosy has ever occurred, and lepers are therefore frequently hidden away for years or are declared to be suffering from some other disease, the family physician conniving at the deceit. Ashmead believes that in Japan at the present time, with its forty-five millions of inhabitants, there are more than 100,000 lepers, which, if true, is certainly a most appalling figure, as it represents one-fourth per cent of the entire population.

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<sup>1</sup> Im Thurn, *Among the Indians of Guiana*, p. 188